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LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION



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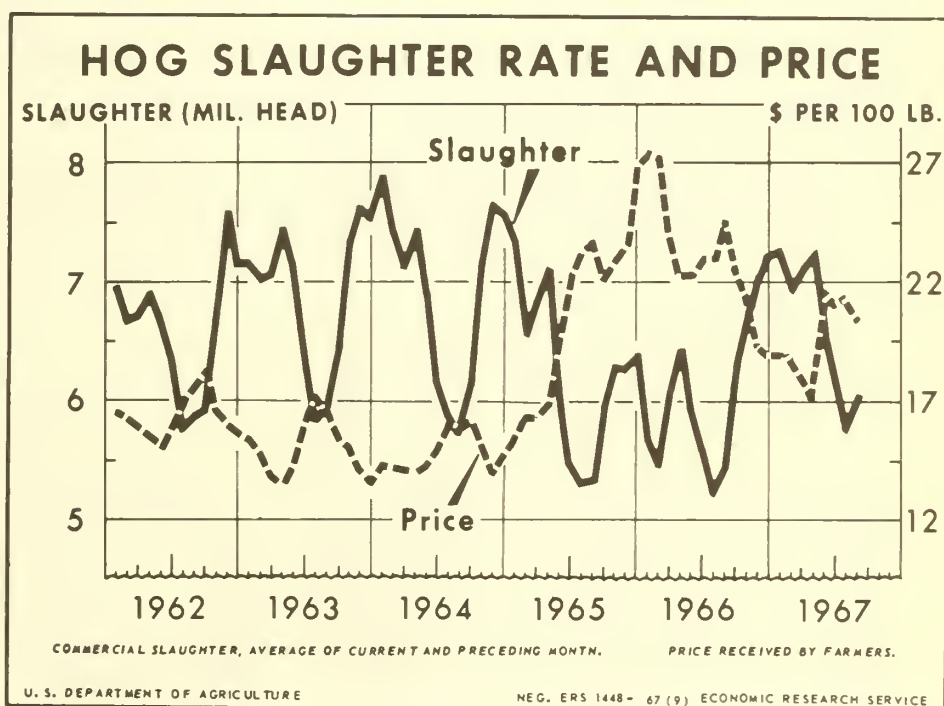
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For A.M. Release, October 11, 1967

Commercial hog slaughter in the first 8 months of 1967 was 15 percent larger than the relatively small slaughter a year earlier. Although January-March hog prices were below the record high prices of a year earlier they were higher than in other recent years.

Hog slaughter this fall is expected to average about the same as last fall, but may drop below a year earlier in the winter. Prices this fall and winter may be near year-earlier levels.

Although hog producers curtailed farrowings this year the indicated cutback is small. Hog production probably will be more profitable this fall and winter than a year ago, largely because feed costs will be lower.



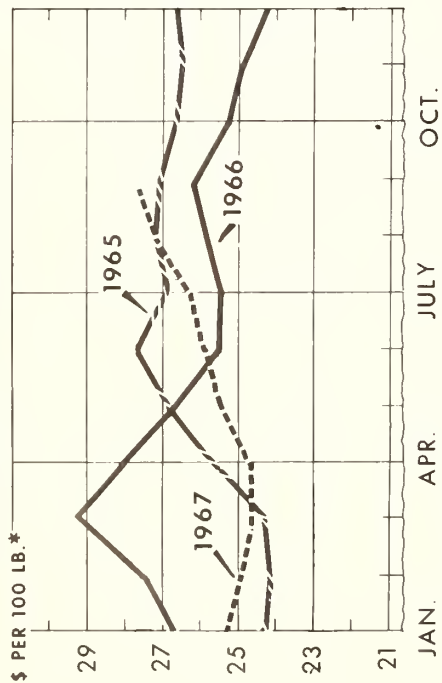
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HOG OUTLOOK

REGIONAL LAMB PRODUCTION
AND MARKETING

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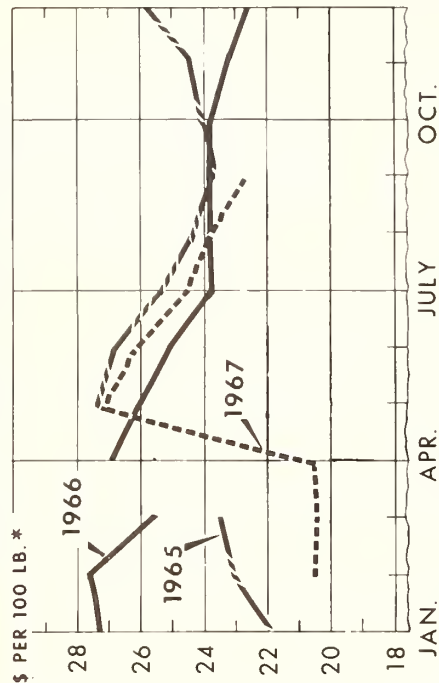
SLAUGHTER STEER PRICES



* CHOICE GRADE, SOLO OUT OF FIRST HANDS AT CHICAGO.

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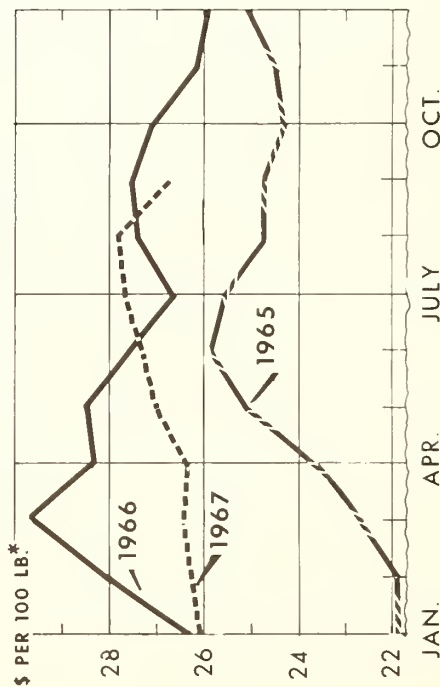
SLAUGHTER LAMB PRICES



* CHOICE GRADE AT DENVER, SPRING LAMBS-APRIL TO DECEMBER, ALL OTHER MONTHS WOOLEO.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. ERS 3238-67 (9) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

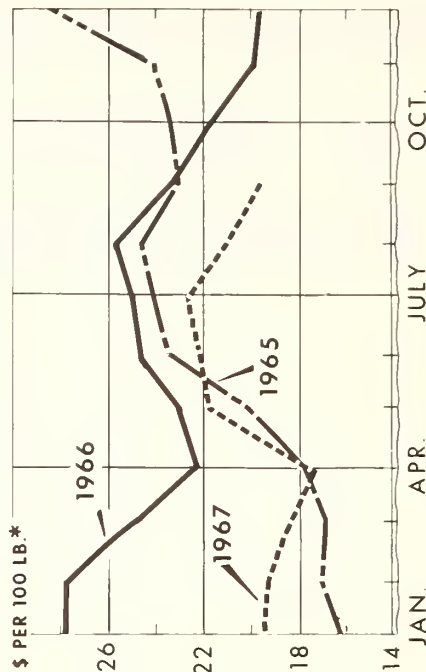
FEEDER STEER PRICES



* CHOICE GRADE, 550-750 LB. AT KANSAS CITY.

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HOG PRICES



* BARROW AND GILT AT MARKETS.

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LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, October 3, 1967

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SUMMARY

Red meat production this fall likely will be a little smaller than in October-December 1966, but about the same as this summer. This contrasts with developments in late 1966 and early this year, when red meat production was increasing.

Early in 1967, prices for most classes of livestock were running lower than a year earlier when prices of some classes were unusually high. By late this year, supplies may be a little smaller than a year earlier and prices a little stronger.

Hog producers have ended the expansion in production that carried through 1966 and into early 1967. However, indicated production adjustments are small. In the second half of 1967, the number of sows farrowing in 10 Corn Belt States likely will be about 2 percent smaller than a year earlier. Producers also plan to have 2 percent fewer sows farrow during December 1967-February 1968.

An expanded pig crop in the second half of 1966 led to sharp increases in hog slaughter and considerably lower prices during January-June of this year. In the first half of 1967, barrows and gilts at 8 markets averaged \$19.84 per 100 pounds--about \$5 less than the high prices of a

year earlier. In July-September hog prices at 8 markets averaged \$21, but were more than \$3.50 below prices in July-September 1966.

The number of hogs slaughtered this fall and in the first half of 1968 likely will be about the same as or a little smaller than the relatively small supplies a year earlier.

Hogs on farms in the 10 Corn Belt States on September 1 in weight groups that will provide the bulk of fall slaughter supplies were about the same as a year earlier; there were 2 percent fewer hogs in weights that will be marketed next winter.

Lower hog prices and higher corn prices in the first half of 1967 led producers to plan slight reductions in farrowings this fall and next winter. Since hog prices this fall may be much the same as a year earlier, (when barrows and gilts at 8 markets averaged \$20.37) and corn prices will be lower, further production cuts are unlikely.

Fed cattle prices strengthened this past summer and Choice steers at Chicago in late-September were running near \$27.50 per 100 pounds--about \$3 above the lows of last winter and spring. Prices rose during

the summer as fed cattle marketings dropped below those in the first half, when 8 percent more cattle were marketed out of feedlots than a year earlier. Lighter market weights also contributed to the price rise, although lower byproduct values were a weakening influence.

Fed cattle marketings in October-December are expected to be around year-earlier levels. The number of cattle on feed at mid-year in weight groups that will be marketed in the fall was down 5 percent. However, some of the cattle placed on feed in the summer will be marketed this fall. There were 16 percent more cattle and calves placed on feed during July and August in 6 States for which monthly data are available (these States usually account for about half of all summer placements). The next quarterly cattle on feed report will be released on October 17.

Fed cattle prices this fall likely will average somewhat above prices in the summer, when Choice steers averaged about \$27 at Chicago, reflecting smaller supplies

of fed beef than in spring or summer.

Sheep and lamb slaughter in commercially operated plants in January-June was 2 percent above a year earlier. However, all of the increase came in the winter. Since last spring, slaughter has been smaller than a year earlier. Slaughter in the summer was down only 1 percent from a year earlier and larger than would normally be expected from the 6 percent smaller 1967 lamb crop. An earlier movement of lambs off summer grass and a larger proportion moving directly to slaughter largely accounted for the relatively high slaughter. This means that slaughter supplies in the fall and winter likely will be reduced. Also, the supply of feeder lambs is expected to be smaller during the fall and winter.

Lamb prices declined seasonally during the late spring and summer, dipping slightly below year-earlier levels in September when they averaged \$22 per 100 pounds at San Angelo. Lamb prices likely will show some strength late this fall and next winter and average well above year-earlier levels.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

HOGS

Hog producers made a slight downward adjustment in farrowings this summer from year-earlier levels and they have stated intentions to extend this modest cutback into the fall and winter. However, there is little evidence that a major downturn is underway.

Producers expanded production above a year earlier for 16 consecutive months, from November 1965 through February 1967. This resulted in pork output exceeding year-earlier levels since the spring of 1966. But the number of sows farrowing in March this year declined to year-earlier levels and farrowings have continued near or below since. On September 1 producers in the 10 Corn Belt States stated intentions to reduce slightly the number of sows

farrowing through February than a year earlier. If these plans materialize, hog slaughter likely will be near or slightly below year-earlier levels through the summer of 1968.

Slaughter Up; Prices Down In 1967

Commercial hog slaughter during the first half of the 1967 was 16 percent above January-June 1966, largely reflecting the 15 percent larger June-November 1966 pig crop in 10 states. July and August slaughter continued large, totaling 13 percent above these months in 1966. Based on weekly slaughter rates, the margin of slaughter over a year earlier began to narrow in September, reflecting the slight cutback in spring farrowing.

Substantially increased hog slaughter in late 1966 and early 1967 resulted in sharply lower hog prices. Barrows and gilts at 8 markets averaged around \$19.50 per 100 pounds in December-February--down around \$8.50, or 30 percent, from the record high levels of a year earlier when supplies were very light.

As the number slaughtered declined seasonally this spring and early summer--although still 10 percent above a year earlier--hog prices strengthened. In July barrows and gilts at 8 markets averaged about \$22.60. Since then, however, prices have weakened as slaughter rates increased seasonally and continued above a year earlier. In late-September barrows and gilts were selling near \$19.10 per 100 pounds, about the same as the first of the year and \$3.50 below a year earlier.

Changing weights of slaughter hogs this year have had little effect on total pork output. Weights of hogs killed in commercial plants during the first 8 months of 1967 averaged only 3 pounds, or about 1 percent under a year earlier. Consequently, increases in hog slaughter and pork production were about the same--15 percent. This was in contrast to a year earlier when slaughter was down 6 percent but pork production was down only 3 percent because of heavier slaughter weights.

Sow Slaughter Declining

Federally inspected sow slaughter was 18 percent larger than a year earlier from January through May but has since dropped below a year earlier. During June-August, sow slaughter was 9 percent below a year earlier. Sows that farrow in winter and early spring generally make up the bulk of sow slaughter supplies in the summer and fall. The number of sows farrowing December-May was up from a year earlier, with all of the increase in December-February. Sow slaughter in the late spring and summer would have been expected to be somewhat above a year earlier. However, the 9 percent decline in June-August slaughter suggests that farmers have been holding more

younger sows for breeding. This is further indicated by the increase in the average weight of sows marketed for slaughter this summer. In July and August sows at 8 markets averaged 12 pounds heavier than a year earlier. While the difference in weight is not substantial, it suggests that producers shipped a larger proportion of older sows than in the summer of 1967. However, there is no clear indication that producers intend to expand production this fall and winter.

Changes in sow prices over time generally follow a pattern similar to barrows and gilts although the spread between the two classes varies. Sow prices averaged \$16.50 at 8 markets during January-June, \$4.70 below the high levels a year earlier but about the same percentage change that occurred in barrow and gilt prices during the same period. Further changes in sow prices this year are expected to be small.

Prospective Slaughter Supplies Near Year Earlier; Fall Prices Steady

On September 1 there were 1 percent fewer hogs and pigs on farms than a year earlier. These numbers are consistent with the 2 percent decline in March-August farrowings. Although producers reported about the same number of hogs kept for breeding purposes, there were about 2 percent fewer potential slaughter hogs. Of these slaughter hogs, there were about the same number weighing 120 pounds and over but there were 2 percent fewer weighing less than 120 pounds. Hogs weighing more than 120 pounds on September 1 will furnish the bulk of slaughter supplies into November while the lighter weight hogs will be marketed after November. The September inventories in 10 States suggest that marketings of slaughter hogs will be near year-earlier levels through most of the fall and may drop slightly below during the winter.

The 10 Corn Belt States account for around 75 percent of U.S. hog production. But increases in hog production in other States could offset some or all of the decline expected in the Corn Belt next winter. During the recent 16 month expansion (November 1965 to February 1967) increases in hog production outside the

Table 1.--Farrowing intentions for early spring pigs and actual farrowings, percentage change from a year earlier, 1960 to date

Year	December-February intentions 1/ Percent	Reported farrowings					
		December-February		March-May		December-May	
		Selected States	U.S.	Selected States	U.S.	Selected States	U.S.
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1960	-4	-20	-18	-12	-14	-15	-15
1961	+4	+4	+1	+7	+5	+6	+3
1962	+4	+4	+2	-2	-2	0	0
1963	+4	+1	0	+3	+2	+3	+1
1964	-1	-7	-9	-5	-6	-6	-7
1965	-13	-8	-8	-13	-12	-11	-11
1966	0	+2	+2	+6	+7	+5	+6
1967	+6	+8	+5	-1	-2	+2	+1
1968	-2						

1/ Intentions for 10 States reported in September.

Table 2.--Hog-corn price ratio during fall breeding season, United States and North Central Region, arrayed according to United States ratio, and number of sows farrowing following spring, 1955-67

Year	Hog-corn price ratio September-December <u>1</u> /		Number of sows farrowing following spring	Increase or decrease from preceeding spring in sows farrowing	
	United States	North Central States		Number	Percentage
			<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1955-1967					
1965	21.5	22.0	6,219	329	5.6
1958	17.9	18.4	7,996	715	9.8
1967	<u>2</u> /17-18				
1960	17.0	17.7	7,018	236	3.5
1957	16.9	17.7	7,281	86	1.2
1961	16.3	16.6	6,996	-22	-0.3
1962	16.2	16.8	7,099	103	1.5
1966	15.7	16.0	6,263	44	0.7
1964	13.3	13.4	5,890	-706	-10.7
1963	13.1	13.0	6,596	-503	-7.1
1956	12.3	12.4	7,195	-460	-6.0
1959	12.2	12.4	6,782	1,214	-15.2
1955	11.4	11.5	7,655	-692	-0.8

1/ Based on prices received by farmer.

2/ Forecast.

Corn Belt exceeded those in the Corn Belt. For example, the December 1965-November 1966 pig crop in 10 Corn Belt States was 9 percent larger than a year earlier, while the crop in the other 40 States exceeded a year earlier by 13 percent. The June Pig Crop Report indicated that the December 1966-May 1967 pig crop in the 40 States was larger than a year earlier. Thus, fall slaughter supplies may be boosted slightly above the level suggested by the September 1 inventory in 10 States.

Although pork supplies will be seasonally large later this year, hog prices are expected to continue near current levels. If slaughter hog supplies are about in line with indicated levels, some price strength will develop late in the year or in early 1968, following the seasonal peak in marketings. On balance, prices for barrows and gilts at 8 markets in the last quarter this year are expected to average around the \$20.37 average last fall.

Supplies of other red meats through the balance of this year will continue large, but may total less than a year earlier. Fed beef supplies likely will be near those of a year earlier but supplies of lower quality beef, veal, lamb and mutton will be smaller. Although poultry production is expected to continue above a year earlier, gains will likely be much smaller than earlier this year. On balance, the competition from other meats is expected to be a little lighter this fall than last.

On September 1, stocks of pork in cold storage totaled 193 million pounds--down seasonally from a month earlier, but 38 percent above a year earlier. Pork moving into cold storage this fall probably will be about the same as last year.

Hog-Corn Price Ratio Rising

Lower hog prices and relatively high feed grain prices last winter resulted in a fairly low hog-feed ratio. In January-April, for example, the hog-corn ratio ranged between 13 and 14.

However, the ratio rose to over 16 in May and June when hog prices advanced sharply. Although hog prices averaged 9 percent below a year earlier in July, corn prices were lower and the July hog-corn ratio of about 17.5 (Chicago) was the highest since August 1966. It has continued above 17 since that time, with lower hog prices accompanied by a decline in corn prices. If hog prices average near year-earlier levels in the fourth quarter and corn prices show some further decline as expected, the ratio likely will rise above September levels. This would be above the fourth quarter 1966 average of 15.3 and likely would encourage hog producers to maintain or expand production. Sows that will farrow fall pigs were bred prior to September 1, when intentions called for a 1 percent decline in farrowing during September-November. However, some increase would be expected in farrowings after the first of the year in response to the improved profit situation.

Production Expansion Terminated But Small Cutback Indicated

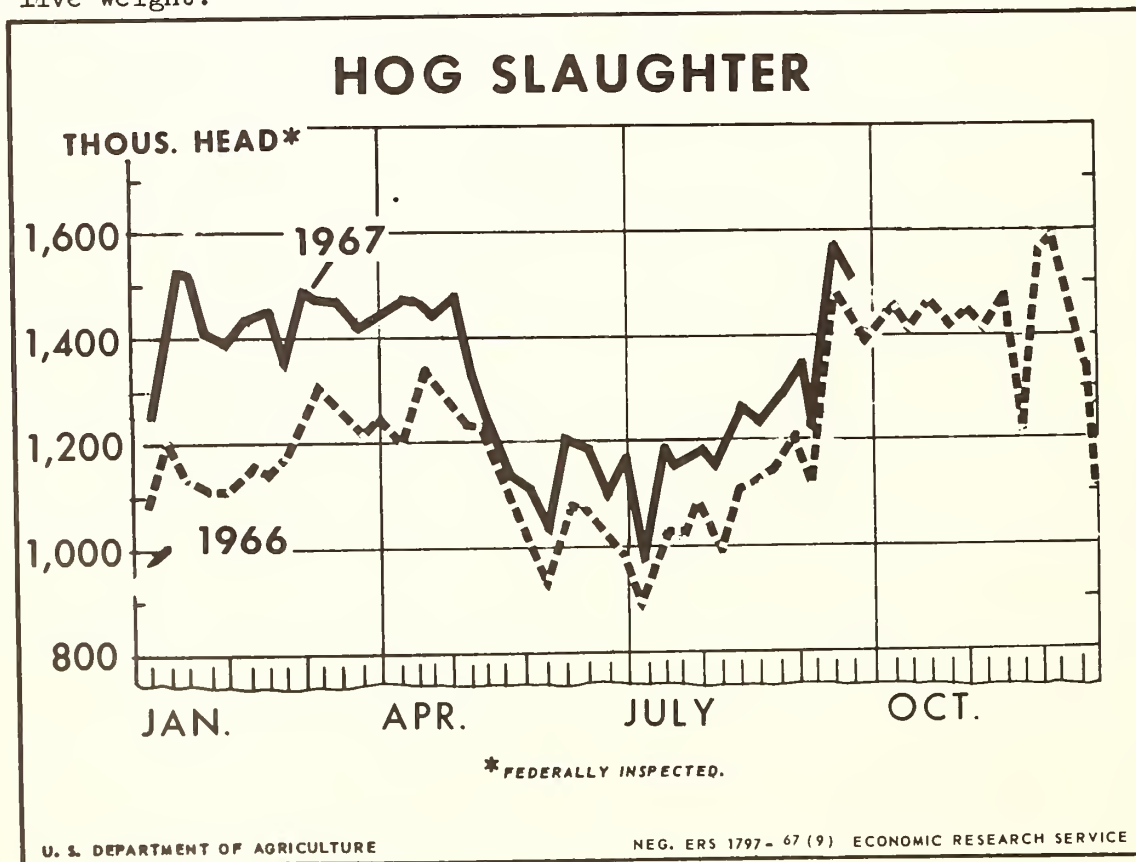
The number of sows that have farrowed or are expected to farrow in the Corn Belt during June-November is estimated about 2 percent below a year earlier. The number of sows farrowing in June-August totaled 3 percent below a year earlier. Producer intentions on September 1 indicated a 1 percent reduction in September-November farrowings and a 2 percent decline during December-February. Pigs born during the second half of this year will provide the bulk of slaughter supplies during the first half of 1968, while those born next winter and spring will provide slaughter supplies in the latter part of next year. Thus, based on the number of sows farrowing in June-August and on September-November breeding intentions, hog slaughter through next spring likely will be near or slightly below a year earlier.

However, as suggested previously, prospects for improved profitability in hog production in the coming months may temper intended reductions in farrowings

Table 3.--Hog prices, corn prices, and hog-corn price ratio,
by months, 1965 to date

Month	Hog price <u>1/</u>			Corn price <u>1/</u>			Hog-corn price ratio <u>2/</u>		
	1965	1966	1967	1965	1966	1967	1965	1966	1967
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.			
Jan.	15.50	27.30	18.90	1.18	1.19	1.28	13.1	22.9	14.8
Feb.	16.40	27.20	18.80	1.20	1.20	1.26	13.7	22.7	14.9
Mar.	16.40	24.00	17.90	1.21	1.17	1.28	13.6	20.5	14.0
Apr.	16.90	22.10	17.00	1.23	1.19	1.26	13.7	18.6	13.5
May	19.70	22.30	21.70	1.26	1.21	1.25	15.6	18.4	17.4
June	22.40	23.20	21.00	1.25	1.20	1.26	17.9	19.2	16.7
July	23.20	23.20	21.40	1.22	1.27	1.21	19.0	18.3	17.7
Aug.	23.70	24.50	20.40	1.18	1.34	1.11	20.1	18.3	18.4
Sept.	22.10	22.30	19.10	1.18	1.35	1.12	18.7	16.5	17.1
Oct.	22.90	21.20		1.10	1.29		20.8	16.4	
Nov.	23.50	19.30		1.04	1.26		22.6	15.3	
Dec.	26.90	18.90		1.13	1.29		23.8	14.7	
Year	20.60	22.80		1.16	1.29		17.7	18.5	

1/ Average price received by farmers, hogs, dollars per 100 pounds for corn dollars per bushel. 2/ Bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of hog, live weight.



this winter and result in some increase in the number of sows farrowing by late spring or early summer. If this situation develops, hog slaughter by late 1968 may be stepped up moderately above 1967 levels.

Hog producers in 10 Corn Belt States reacted to declining hog prices and lower hog-feed ratios in late 1966. Accordingly, the expansion phase was terminated in the fall of 1966 when slightly fewer sows are bred for March farrowing. Hog prices at 8 markets averaged under \$20 in November 1966 and the hog-corn ratio dropped below 16. Although hog prices continued lower last winter and early spring and feed prices were relatively high, hog producers did not significantly cut back production. Since March, farrowings have been near-- or only slightly below--a year earlier, and recently the profit outlook is improving.

Hog prices in the first half of

CATTLE

Cattle slaughter under Federal inspection has been about the same as a year earlier since midyear. This contrasts with the first half, when cattle slaughter was 4 percent larger. All of the increase during January-June was in slaughter of steers (up 10 percent) and heifers (up 7 percent); cow slaughter was off sharply (12 percent).

Cattle slaughter this fall likely will be smaller than a year earlier, with all of the decline in the number of cows slaughtered. Increases over a year earlier likely will continue for steers, but the number of heifers slaughtered may not be much different than in the fall of 1966.

Fed Cattle Prices Strengthened During The Summer

This year fed cattle prices rose rather steadily from early spring into late summer. Choice steers at Chicago averaged \$24.66 per 100 pounds liveweight in April, but by late-September

1968 are expected to move upward in a generally normal seasonal pattern. Prices during the winter and spring likely will average slightly above January-June 1967 as pork supplies will be below year-earlier levels. Also, somewhat smaller supplies of other red meats next year will lend strength to hog prices in the first half of 1968. Smaller supplies are indicated for non-fed beef, veal, and lamb and mutton. Poultry output might be larger but any increase likely would be small according to present indications.

USDA Meat Purchases

The U.S. Department of Agriculture purchased 2.3 million pounds of canned chopped meat (mostly pork) on September 21 at a f.o.b. shipping point cost of \$1 million. This was the initial purchase under a program announced September 8 for use in family distribution programs. Funds for the program are provided under Section 32, Public Law 74-320.

they averaged about \$27.40. The increase in price of high quality beef cattle largely reflects continued strong consumer demand and a moderation in fed cattle marketings over a year earlier. Byproduct values have been weak so far in 1967 and likely have tempered somewhat the price increase for cattle. In recent months byproduct values have been about 75 cents to \$1 per 100 pounds liveweight less than in the second half of 1966. Lower hide prices accounted for most of this decline.

Steer and heifer beef production under Federal inspection in the first half of 1967 rose 752 million pounds, carcass weight, from the 6,300 million pounds produced in the first half of 1966. However, toward midyear, the gains over 1966 levels diminished. In June, steer and heifer beef production was 6 percent above a year earlier; in July, it was 4 percent larger. Gains moderated further in August and early September.

Hide and offal value estimated from
1,000 pound steer, by month,
1966 to date 1/

	1966 2/	1967
	Dollars per 100 pounds	
Jan.		2.13
Feb.		1.98
Mar.		1.96
Apr.		1.89
May		1.90
June		1.92
July	2.75	1.89
Aug.	2.72	1.88
Sept.	2.63	1.90
Oct.	2.35	
Nov.	2.25	
Dec.	2.17	

1/ Week nearest mid-month shown.

2/ Data published in Livestock Market News beginning July 1966.

Fed cattle prices strengthened in the summer as fed beef production fell below winter and spring levels, and the margin over a year earlier narrowed.

With a continued decline in fed cattle marketings toward year-earlier levels now in prospect, prices of fed cattle are expected to continue strong this fall and average moderately above July-September prices, when Choice steers at Chicago were about \$27 per 100 pounds.

Fed Cattle Marketings Leveling Off

Production increases for steer and heifer beef tempered as summer marketings of fed cattle fell below spring levels. About 5 million cattle were marketed out of feedlots in the fall of 1966. Marketings rose to 5.3 million head in January-March this year and to over 5.6 million head in the spring. Cattle feeders stated intentions on July 1 to market about 2 percent more cattle than a year ago during the summer. Although these marketing intentions may have been exceeded a little, most of the increase came early in the summer.

Production of high quality beef this summer continued above a year earlier but by a smaller margin than in the first half of 1967.

Fed cattle marketings likely will remain large this fall--about the same as a year earlier. In the first half of the year, the number of cattle marketed out of feedlots was about 7 percent larger than a year earlier.

On July 1, there were 5 percent fewer cattle on feed weighing less than 900 pounds. Many of these cattle will be marketed this fall. This would point toward reduced marketings in the last few months of 1967. However, fed cattle marketings in October-December will also depend to a considerable extent upon the number and weight of cattle placed on feed in the summer. For example, about a third of the fed cattle marketed during October-December will be drawn from summer placements.

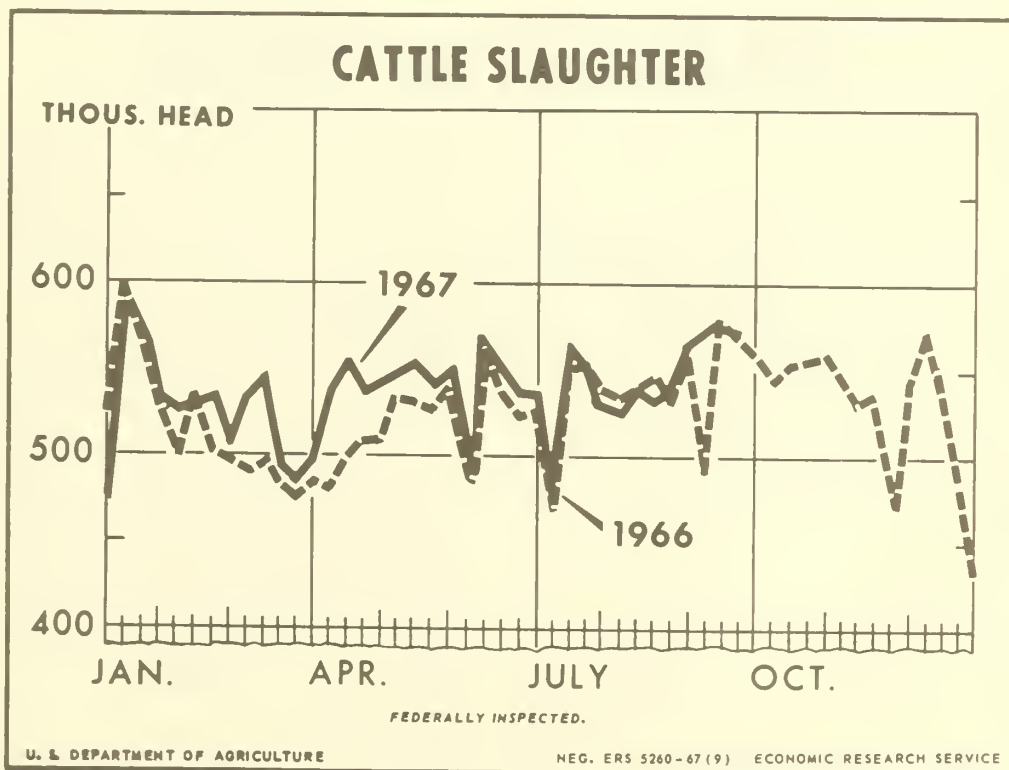
Summer placements in the 6 States for which monthly data are available were sharply higher than a year earlier. Feeders in Iowa, Nebraska, California, Texas, Colorado, and Arizona said they placed 16 percent more cattle on feed during July and August than in the same months a year ago. These 6 States account for about half of all placements. So unless cattle feeders in these 6 States reduced placements substantially during September, they will have increased considerably the number of cattle that moved into feedlots during the summer. However, cattle feeders in these 6 States often follow different feeding patterns than do feeders in other States.

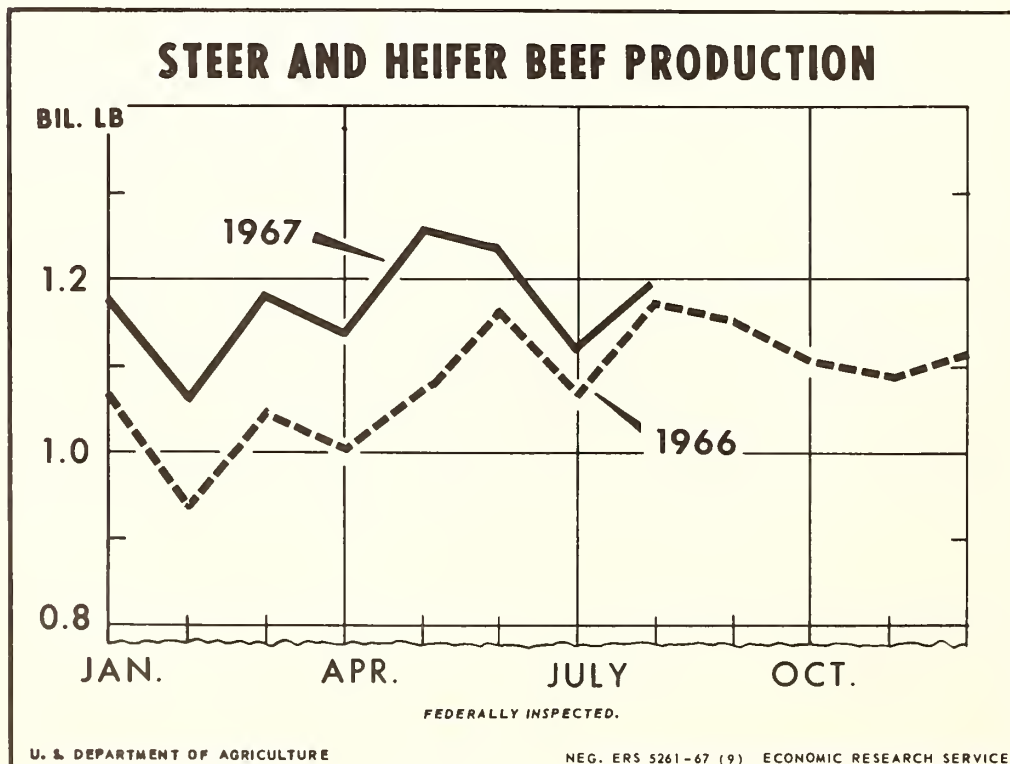
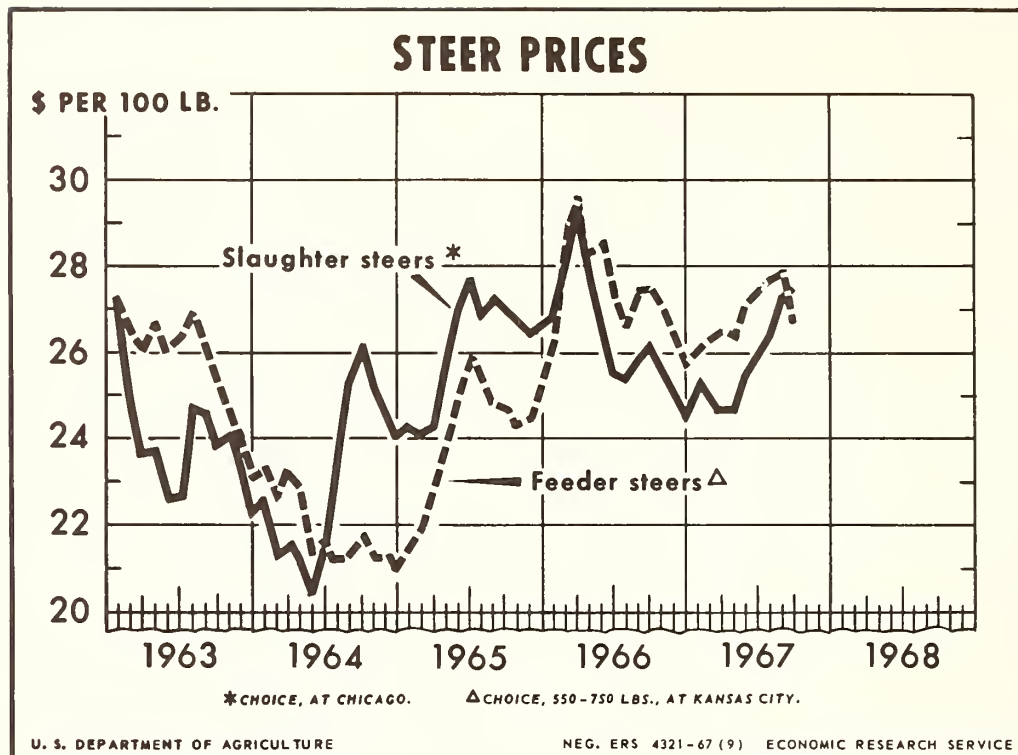
Feeders in the 6 States have less seasonal variation in their operations than other feeders. These States include a larger number of cattle feeders whose lots hold sizeable numbers and who operate on a year around basis.

The supply of feeder cattle at the beginning of the summer was about the same as it was a year earlier. With grazing conditions favorable over large

Table 4 .--Selected prices per 100 pounds of cattle, by months, 1966-67

Month	Chicago				Kansas City			
	Choice steers		Utility cows		Good feeder steers 550-750 lb.		Choice feeder steer calves	
	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
January	26.87	25.25	15.83	16.98	24.01	23.36	28.19	29.69
February	27.79	24.92	17.72	17.92	25.40	23.44	30.96	29.69
March	29.22	24.67	19.51	18.00	26.57	23.08	32.45	30.01
April	27.98	24.66	19.70	17.74	26.26	23.26	31.27	30.25
May	26.75	25.46	19.54	18.51	26.39	24.97	31.80	30.75
June	25.49	25.88	18.83	18.89	25.37	25.04	30.90	30.75
July	25.41	26.40	17.86	18.37	23.91	26.08	29.02	30.75
August	25.85	27.22	18.37	17.79	24.78	25.20	29.81	30.93
September	26.11	27.62	18.46	17.44	24.88	23.96	30.21	30.16
October	25.50		17.52		23.74		30.09	
November	24.94		16.53		23.55		29.71	
December	24.50		16.40		23.06		29.31	
Average	26.29		18.02		24.83		30.31	





areas of the country, the bargaining position of cow-calf operators has been stronger. However, in light of recent developments placements during the summer probably were larger than a year earlier.

Fed cattle marketings likely were 2 to 4 percent larger than a year earlier during July-September. Thus, even if cattle feeders that report cattle on feed data only quarterly stepped up placements as much as feeders in the 6 States, the October 1 inventory of cattle on feed in 32 States would exceed last year's by about 5 percent. Since the increase in placements in the summer likely was less than this, fed cattle marketings in the fall are expected to be about the same as a year earlier.

The next quarterly cattle and calves on feed report will be issued on October 17. It will include the number of cattle on feed in 32 States last summer and cattle feeders' intentions for marketings out of feedlots during October-December. An analysis of this report will be included in the November 14 issue of this Situation report.

In the fall, the movement of cattle into feedlots may be a little later than usual because grazing conditions have been good in most sections of the country. Weather conditions, feed prices and the outlook for future cattle prices will also affect fall placements. Cattle placed on feed in October-December will supply an important part of fed cattle marketings during the first half of 1968.

A larger number of beef heifers likely will be held for additions to herds in 1967 than in the past 2 to 3 years. Fed cattle prices probably will continue strong during the next few months and feed costs are expected to be lower than a year earlier. In this event, feeder cattle prices likely will not decline seasonally this fall, but will continue near current levels.

Choice 550-750 pound feeder steers at Kansas City were around \$26.80 per

100 pounds in late September about 50 cents above a year earlier.

Fed Cattle Weights Lighter In The Summer

Cattle feeders often feed to heavier weights during periods of low or declining cattle prices. Holding large numbers of cattle on feed in hope that prices will soon rise not only compounds price problems, but the average cost of putting on a pound of gain increases sharply.

This was the situation in the second half of 1966 when heavier weights were accompanied by lower prices. Choice steers at Chicago declined from a little more than \$29 per 100 pounds in March 1966 to \$24.50 in December. Prices continued between \$24 and \$25 until this spring when they began to strengthen.

The average liveweight of Choice steers at 7 markets was 17 pounds heavier in March 1967 than a year earlier. But weights made a sharp seasonal decline as prices improved in the spring and summer and by midyear weights were a little under a year earlier. Since fed cattle prices this fall are expected to continue to hold around late summer levels, fed cattle likely will continue to be marketed at moderate weights.

The shift toward marketing fed cattle as soon as they reached the desired degree of finish this year resulted in fewer heavy weight cattle. Last February, Choice 1100-1300 pound steers sold for \$24.70 per 100 pounds at Chicago, which was 20 cents less than similar cattle weighing 900-1100 pounds. This situation has since been reversed and in August heavyweight steers brought a premium of almost 60 cents per 100 pounds over lighter weight animals. Price premiums likely will continue on heavier animals as long as the supply of this type cattle does not become burdensome.

The difference in price between feeder steers and feeder heifers also reflects in part the general level of fed cattle prices. In August, 300-550 pound Choice feeder steer calves at Omaha

Table 5.--Average live weight of steers sold out of first hands
at 7 markets, by months, 1964 to date

LMS-157

PRIME

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
1964	1,231	1,218	1,266	1,270	1,263	1,273	1,274	1,268	1,271	1,265	1,239	1,232	1,255
1965	1,239	1,237	1,249	1,253	1,261	1,249	1,240	1,244	1,252	1,227	1,218	1,213	1,238
Change from 1964	+8	+19	-17	-17	-2	-24	-34	-24	-19	-38	-21	-19	-17
1966	1,221	1,224	1,224	1,243	1,243	1,240	1,223	1,238	1,253	1,237	1,215	1,188	1,224
Change from 1965	-18	-13	-25	-10	-18	-9	-17	-6	+1	+10	-3	-25	-14
1967	1,202	1,212	1,226	1,229	1,245	1,245	1,237	1,248					
Change from 1966	-19	-12	+2	-14	+2	+5	+14	+10					

CHOICE

1964	1,182	1,187	1,193	1,184	1,172	1,167	1,150	1,129	1,121	1,125	1,136	1,148	1,159
1965	1,155	1,152	1,142	1,141	1,136	1,130	1,113	1,101	1,098	1,100	1,118	1,134	1,126
Change from 1964	-27	-35	-51	-43	-36	-37	-37	-28	-23	-25	-18	-14	-33
1966	1,151	1,143	1,135	1,139	1,144	1,148	1,133	1,126	1,119	1,128	1,139	1,144	1,138
Change from 1965	-4	-9	-7	-2	+8	+18	+20	+25	+21	+28	+21	+10	+12
1967	1,159	1,156	1,152	1,153	1,155	1,143	1,133	1,115					
Change from 1966	+8	+13	+17	+14	+11	-5	0	-11					

GOOD

1964	1,129	1,124	1,119	1,096	1,080	1,062	1,038	1,024	1,040	1,050	1,069	1,074	1,076
1965	1,085	1,062	1,046	1,044	1,043	1,034	1,014	1,016	1,020	1,037	1,060	1,084	1,048
Change from 1964	-44	-62	-73	-52	-37	-28	-24	-8	-20	-13	-9	+10	-28
1966	1,098	1,076	1,066	1,060	1,072	1,070	1,047	1,038	1,046	1,068	1,100	1,124	1,071
Change from 1965	+13	+14	+20	+16	+29	+36	+33	+22	+26	+31	+40	+40	+23
1967	1,116	1,098	1,091	1,081	1,080	1,069	1,051	1,035					
Change from 1966	+18	+22	+25	+21	+8	-1	+4	-3					

ALL GRADES

1964	1,166	1,168	1,170	1,152	1,140	1,134	1,115	1,099	1,094	1,102	1,114	1,121	1,132
1965	1,127	1,116	1,103	1,101	1,105	1,105	1,092	1,081	1,084	1,088	1,106	1,123	1,103
Change from 1964	-39	-52	-67	-51	-36	-29	-23	-18	-10	-14	-8	+2	-29
1966	1,141	1,127	1,118	1,119	1,126	1,128	1,113	1,112	1,111	1,122	1,139	1,145	1,125
Change from 1965	+14	+11	+15	+18	+22	+23	+21	+31	+27	+34	+33	+22	+22
1967	1,153	1,146	1,140	1,138	1,143	1,134	1,124	1,107					
Change from 1966	+12	+19	+22	+19	+17	+6	+11	-5					

OCTOBER 1967

averaged \$31.25, or \$4.25 higher than similar grade and weight heifer calves. Price differentials had been less than \$3 per 100 pounds in the fall of 1966. The reduced supply of yearling steers by midyear likely also has had some effect on the margin between feeder steers and heifer prices.

Heavier weight feeder steers recently have sold with a wider price differential over feeder heifers. Price

premiums for slaughter steers over heifers of the same grade have seldom been more than a dollar in recent years, except in the fall when the difference is seasonally wider. In August, Choice feeder steers at Omaha, 550-750 pounds, were \$3.50 more than heifers. The price differential had been only about \$1.75 in favor of steers last winter. As steers become much higher in price than heifers, some feeders that do not usually feed heifers begin to include some in their feeding programs.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

The Nation's sheep and lamb population continues to decline. Although the outlook for pasture and winter feed is generally more favorable than it has been for several years, slaughter rates have been, and are expected to continue, at a level that will result in a further inventory reduction in 1967.

Slaughter Below, But Prices Near Year Earlier This Summer

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 8.5 million head during the first 8 months of the year--1 percent above January-August 1966. The volume slaughtered varied during this period much more than last year, ranging from a 25 percent increase above a year earlier in February to an 11 percent decrease in June. Slaughter levels during January-March were 14 percent above a year earlier.

Spring slaughter was down 9 percent from April-June last year and was the lowest for that period since 1951. July and August slaughter rose 5 percent above the preceding 2 months and totaled only 1 percent below a year earlier with killing rates rising above a year earlier in some weeks. The relatively larger slaughter this summer than would be expected from the 6 percent smaller 1967 lamb crop reflects earlier movement of lambs than in 1966. Also, as a result of the generally more favorable range and pasture situation a larger proportion of those moving off grass have been shipped to packers and

fewer to feedlots than last year.

Lamb prices have generally reflected changes in slaughter levels this year. Choice lambs averaged near \$21 at San Angelo during the winter but rose sharply to a weekly average of \$26.75 in mid-May in response to lower slaughter rates and the shift from fed lambs to spring lambs. Lamb prices declined seasonally during the late spring and summer and dipped slightly below year-earlier levels in September when they averaged about \$22. Heavy supplies of other red meats, particularly pork, contributed to the price decline this summer.

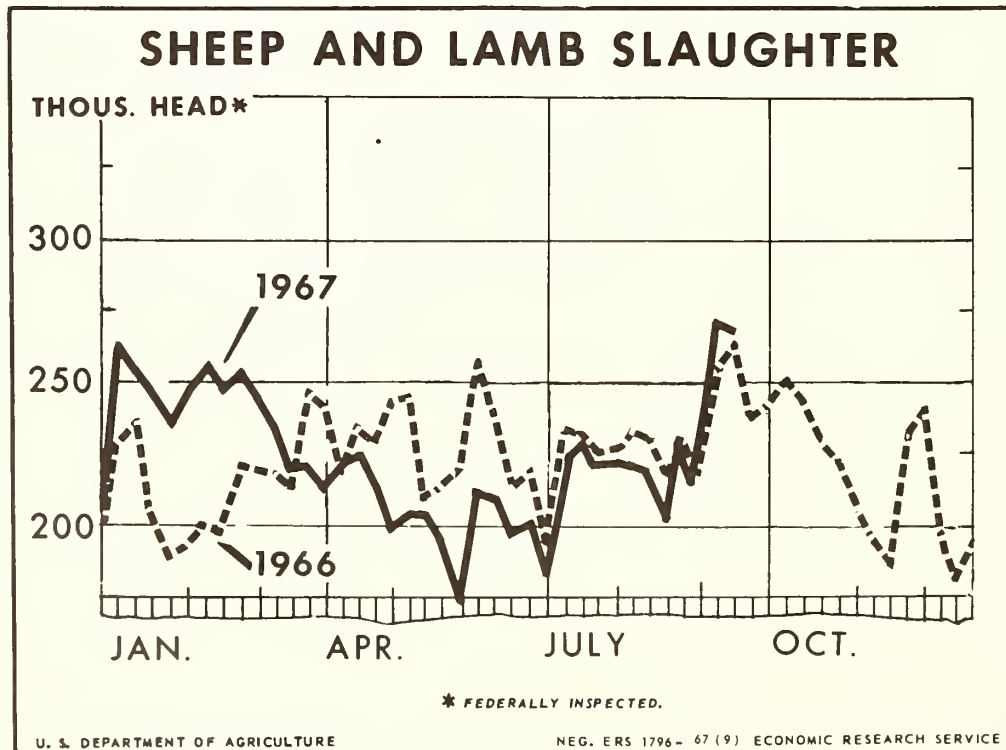
Fall Slaughter To Continue Lower

Slaughter rates are expected to continue generally below year-earlier levels for the balance of 1967 and into 1968. The 1967 lamb crop was 6 percent smaller than the 1966 crop, thus reducing the potential slaughter supply for this year and early 1968. Slaughter rates this summer have reflected stepped up movement of lambs to slaughter which indicates that the supply of feeder lambs for fall and winter feeding will be smaller. Also, shipments of feeder lambs into the Corn Belt States were 38 percent less than a year earlier during May-August. If slaughter lamb marketings continue at the relatively high recent levels through the next several weeks, considerably fewer lambs will be available for feeding, and marketings of fed lambs in late fall and winter will be substantially smaller than last year.

Table 6.--Selected prices per 100 pounds of livestock, by months, 1966-67

Month	Barrows and gilts at 8 markets <u>1/</u>		Sows at 8 markets <u>1/</u>		Choice lambs at Denver		Choice feeder lambs at S. St. Paul	
	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
January	27.93	19.46	23.84	15.52	27.72	<u>2/</u>	27.24	22.90
February	27.80	19.38	25.09	16.17	27.62	20.50	28.27	21.02
March	24.41	18.43	21.80	16.09	25.42	20.45	26.27	20.70
April	22.26	17.62	18.87	15.33	26.86	20.56	24.39	20.70
May	23.16	21.83	18.35	17.90	26.00	27.37	23.00	21.14
June	24.72	22.29	19.16	17.84	25.11	26.16	21.20	20.10
July	25.09	22.58	19.40	18.24	23.75	24.58	21.58	22.25
August	25.75	21.05	21.45	17.89	23.85	23.85	21.81	21.41
September	23.16	19.46	20.91	17.21	23.89	22.67	22.54	20.30
October	21.57		19.40		23.81		22.35	
November	19.87		16.86		23.02		21.58	
December	19.67		15.08		22.60		22.75	
Average	23.49		19.77		24.97		23.58	

1/ Average for all weights at Midwest markets. 2/ No price quoted.



Last year in the fall and winter lamb prices held relatively steady near late summer levels. Since fed lamb supplies may be well below a year earlier during coming months prices likely will show some contraseasonal strength as they did in 1965 and early 1966 when supplies were restricted. Also, by this fall and winter, pressures on lamb prices from other red meats likely will be somewhat less. However, fall and winter price strength could be somewhat offset if producers withhold a smaller proportion of ewe lambs than last year.

Slaughter Weights To Rise Seasonally

Early this year, slaughter weights of sheep and lambs reached the record levels of a year earlier. However, since February, average weights under Federal inspection have been running 2 to 3 pounds under a year earlier. The increased movement of fed lambs during the early winter months reduced the proportion of fed lambs in the slaughter supply in late winter and early spring, thus lowering the average weight of all slaughter lambs. This summer earlier shipments of lambs off grass have tended to keep weights under a year ago.

Slaughter weights will rise seasonally in the coming months as fed lambs make up an increasing proportion of slaughter supplies and may approach year-earlier levels by late fall or early winter. If the supply of slaughter lambs is reduced in the late fall and winter and prices are stronger, lamb feeders may move lambs out of feedlots at lighter weights and price discounts will not be large. This would be in contrast to a year earlier when prices were depressed, in part, because some feeders held lambs to excessive weights. While it is not uncommon for feeders of

lambs and cattle to hold animals on feed longer on a down market than on a steady or strong market, the result too often amounts to nothing more than increased feeding costs, large discounts and reduced profits.

The widest spread between the price of slaughter lambs and the price of feeder lambs generally occurs in the spring during the early period of new crop slaughter lamb marketings. The spread then narrows through the summer and in the fall feeder lamb prices are usually near, and sometimes above, slaughter lamb prices. This year, the spread reached \$5 in late-April (slaughter lambs \$24.50 and feeder lambs \$19.50 at San Angelo). As slaughter lamb prices declined more rapidly than feeder prices, the spread narrowed to about 25 cents per 100 pounds lower by late-September (slaughter lambs \$22 and feeder lambs \$21.75). In late-September 1966 feeder lambs were bringing about \$ 1.50 per 100 pounds more than slaughter lambs.

Lamb feeders have been less aggressive so far this year in bidding for the available supply of feeder lambs, largely because of unfavorable price margins and higher feed costs in the 1966-67 feeding season which resulted in low returns or losses for some lamb feeders. However, a stronger feeder market is expected to develop this fall and winter in contrast to a steady to weak market during this period last year. If slaughter rates continue near a year earlier, as they have for the past several weeks, the supply of feeder lambs and potential fall and winter slaughter supplies could be substantially reduced. Under these circumstances, the supply of feeder lambs will be reduced and strength in feeder lamb prices would be expected to develop. Lower prices for feed grains this fall and winter may also encourage lamb feeders to bid more aggressively for the smaller supply of feeder lambs.

FOREIGN TRADE IN MEAT

Imports of red meat totaled 1,164 million pounds in January-August (carcass weight equivalent), 5 percent more than in this period last year. Beef and veal imports accounted for all of the increase, totaling 826 million pounds, 10 percent more than a year earlier. Imports of pork, totaling 266 million pounds, were 4 percent larger than these months last year. Imports of lamb amounted to 6.1 million pounds, about half as much as in January-August 1966, and imports of mutton and goat totaled 67 million pounds, down 28 percent from a year earlier.

Beef and veal imports in August were 5 percent larger than in August last year, but are expected to be closer to year-earlier levels during the rest of the year. Lamb imports likely will not be off as sharply from year-earlier levels during the rest of the year. Pork imports probably will be somewhat larger during the rest of 1967 because little change is expected in U.S. pork prices this fall and winter, and pork production is increasing in countries that export to the United States.

Exports of red meat totaled almost 68 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in January-August, 12 percent more than a year earlier. Exports of pork were 13 percent larger and exports of beef and veal were up 10 percent.

Lamb and mutton exports usually are small and totaled 1.4 million pounds in January-August, 6 percent less than a year earlier.

Meat Imports Subject To Quota

Imports of meat subject to quota restrictions under conditions specified in Public Law 88-482 (primarily fresh, chilled or frozen beef and veal) amounted to 559 million pounds (product weight) in January-August, about 6 percent more than in the first 8 months last year. The law requires that if yearly imports of the meats covered by the legislation are estimated to equal or exceed 110 percent of the adjusted base quota that the President proclaim a quota on these items. The adjusted base quota for 1967 is 904.6 million pounds (product weight). The level of estimated imports for the year which would trigger its imposition is 995 million pounds.

The Secretary of Agriculture makes estimates of the annual total of meat imports subject to quota before the beginning of each quarter in the year. The fourth quarterly estimate of annual imports of these meats in 1967--860 million pounds--was announced in September. This volume would be about 37 million pounds more than imports of these meats in 1966. Imports of these meats during the rest of the year are expected to average about the same as a year earlier.

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The Livestock and Meat Situation is published in
February, March, May, August, October, and November.

The next issue is scheduled for release
November 14, 1967.

Table 7.--U.S. meat imports and exports: January-August 1966-67
and percentage comparisons (carcass weight)

Item	1966		1967		Percent change	
	Jan.- July	Aug.	Jan.- Aug.	July	Aug.	Jan.- Aug.
Imports						
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
Beef and veal	618,641	130,090	748,731	689,551	136,114	825,665
Lamb	11,334	755	12,089	5,586	520	6,106
Mutton and goat	82,544	9,967	92,511	58,412	8,248	66,660
Pork	233,781	22,538	256,319	234,775	31,071	265,846
Total meat	946,300	163,350	1,109,650	988,324	175,953	1,164,277
Exports						
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
Beef and veal	23,387	2,723	26,110	25,548	3,288	28,836
Lamb and mutton	1,423	106	1,529	1,297	145	1,442
Pork	29,046	3,788	32,834	33,747	3,488	37,235
Total meat	53,856	6,617	60,473	60,592	6,921	67,513

Table 8.---Meat subject to U.S. import quota restriction: Product weight
of imports by months, average 1959-63, 1964-67

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>1,000 lb.</u>
1959-63 average	47,342	49,596	57,539	54,254	48,514	58,564	67,110
1964	87,232	44,873	68,877	61,363	51,113	98,152	43,726
1965	28,181	34,498	68,654	32,404	52,329	42,062	58,512
1966	51,397	60,341	49,419	63,334	51,954	100,222	61,361
1967	77,357	58,514	61,884	58,810	51,483	69,557	88,732
	August	September	October	November	December	Total	
	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	
1959-63 average	84,131	76,055	61,599	56,106	61,396	722,206	
1964	79,453	49,651	46,384	55,726	53,363	739,913	
1965	59,917	62,208	64,411	57,281	53,747	614,204	
1966	87,076	91,471	79,746	61,062	66,052	823,435	
1967	92,237						

REGIONAL LAMB PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

By
John T. Larsen 1/

What areas supply the bulk of slaughter lambs during the winter months? When are Colorado spring lambs shipped? Where are early spring lambs produced? The following discussion, together with the accompanying table and chart, has been developed to provide a source of general information on U.S. sheep and lamb production and marketing. The information on market classes and time of marketing was based on an informal survey of U.S.D.A. livestock market news reporters and others familiar with the sheep and lamb industry in important producing areas and reported data on inshipments of lambs into the Corn Belt.

The table and chart illustrate how the industry provides a fairly evenly balanced supply of slaughter lambs for consumption throughout the year. It is not practical to attempt to cover the entire lambing and marketing time in the various areas. The schedules, therefore, reflect the major portion of lambing and give a general picture of moving a typical lamb crop to market. There will, of course, be some sheep producers and feeders whose lambing and marketing activities occur outside the designated time period.

Over 60 percent of recent lamb crops were dropped in the 11 Western States and Texas, 31 percent in the 12 North Central States, and the balance distributed among the remaining 26 States.

Commercial slaughter of sheep and lambs tends to be concentrated in the areas of heaviest production. For example, 47 percent of sheep and lambs commercially slaughtered in 1966 were killed in the 11 Western States and Texas and 40 percent in the 12 North Central States.

The bulk of the Nation's annual lamb crop is born from December through May. Since lambing time is dependent to a large degree on climatic conditions, California and the Southwest produce a large

share of early lambs. Lambing moves generally north and east as the season progresses, with some of the latest lambs dropped in late spring in the higher elevations of the Mountain States.

Two general market classes of lambs are produced for the slaughter market: milk-fat lambs and those finished on pasture or in feedlots. Milk-fat lambs, often called spring lambs, generally make up the bulk of slaughter supplies in the spring and summer. They are generally marketed when they are weaned--often around 4-5 months of age. Those that do not reach desired slaughter weight and finish by the time they are weaned usually go to feedlots or are put on pasture, such as wheat or alfalfa; these lambs make up the bulk of slaughter supplies in the fall and winter. Since a substantial portion of the lamb crop moves through such feeding operations, slaughter lamb marketings tend to be distributed fairly evenly throughout the year.

The marketing of each lamb crop extends roughly from April through March of the following year and follows essentially the same geographic pattern as lambing. The first of the season's spring lambs are marketed out of California and the Southwest in the early spring. Movement of fat and feeder lamb marketing shifts northward and eastward in the spring and continues through the summer. Lambs from the higher elevations of the Mountain States are generally the last to move in volume and are shipped to slaughter or to feedlots in late summer and fall. Fed lambs from the Corn Belt and some areas in the West make up the bulk of slaughter supplies in late fall and winter. Feeder lambs are shipped into the Corn Belt in all months of the year, but the heaviest inshipments are during the fall. Likewise, slaughter lambs are shipped from Corn Belt feedlots the year-long, with accelerated movement in the winter.

1/ Agricultural Economist, Livestock Section, ESAD, ERS.

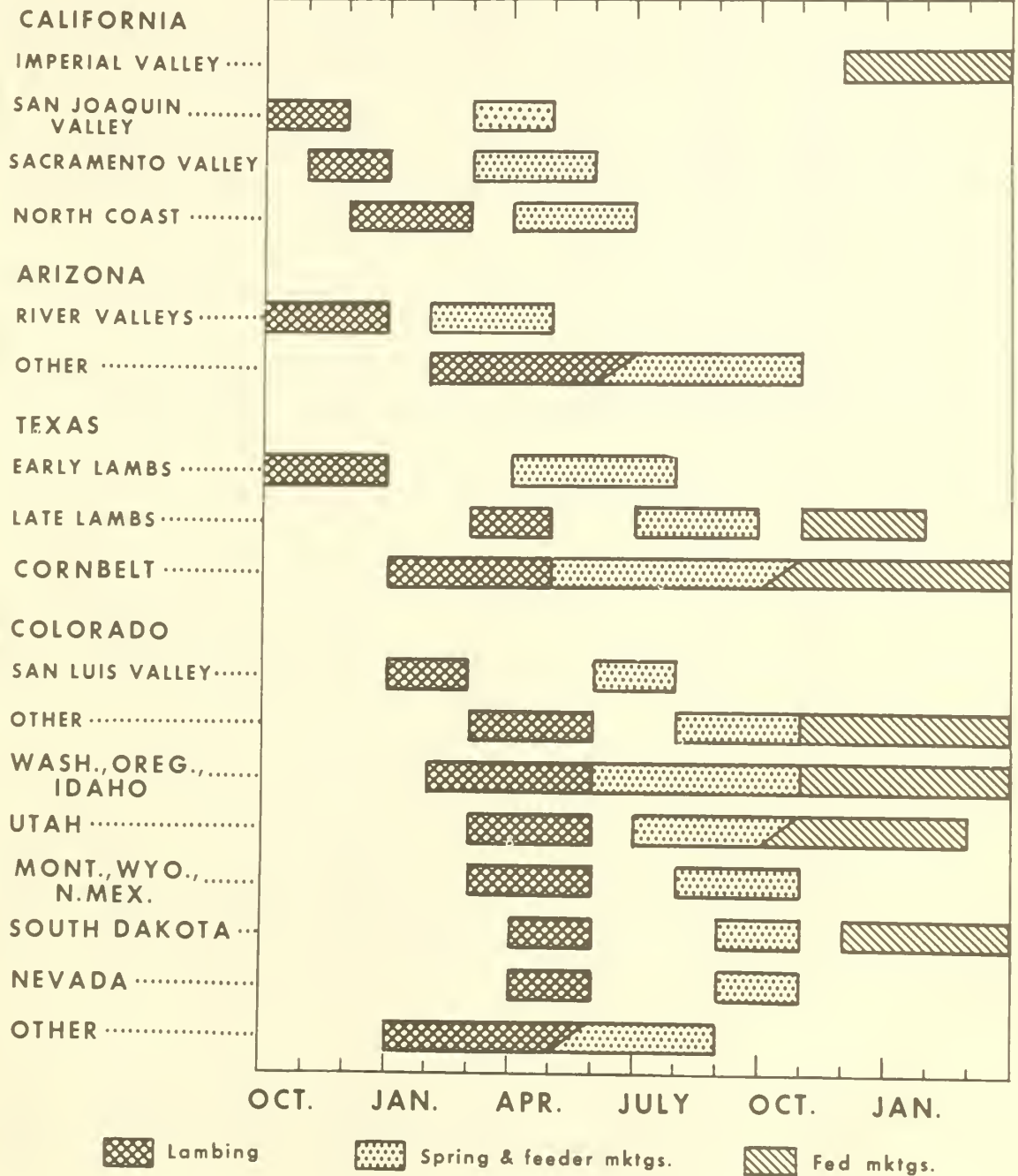
Seasonal Lambing and Marketing Schedule

State and/or area	Lambing	Market class	Bulk of marketings	Percent of 1967 lamb crop
<u>California</u>				7.4
(a) Imperial Valley		Fed <u>1</u> /	Dec.-Mar.	
(b) San Joaquin Valley	Oct.-Nov.	Spring	Mar.-Apr.	
(c) Sacramento Valley	Nov.-Dec.	Spring	Mar.-May	
(d) North Coast	Dec.-Feb.	Spring & Feeder	Apr.-June	
<u>Arizona</u>				1.8
Salt & Gila River Valleys	Oct.-Dec.	Spring & Feeder	Feb.-Apr.	
Other (Arizona)	Feb.-June	Spring & Feeder	June-Oct.	
<u>Texas</u>				16.0
Early lambing	Oct.-Dec.	Spring & Feeder	Apr.-July	
Late lambing	Mar.-Apr.	Spring & Feeder Fed	July-Sept. Nov.-Jan.	
<u>Corn Belt</u> (11 States & Eastern: So. Dakota)	Jan.-Apr.	Spring Fed <u>2</u> /	May-Oct. Oct.-Mar.	26.3
<u>Colorado</u>	.			5.8
San Luis Valley	Jan.-Feb.	Spring & Feeder	June-July	
Other	Mar.-May	Spring & Feeder Fed	Aug.-Oct. Nov.-Mar.	
<u>Idaho, Washington, & Oregon</u>	Feb.-May	Spring & Feeder Fed	June-Oct. Nov.-Mar.	8.5
<u>Utah</u>	Mar.-May	Spring & Feeder Fed	July-Oct. Oct.-Feb.	5.2
<u>Montana & Wyoming & New Mex.</u>	Mar.-May	Spring & Feeder	Aug.-Oct.	16.8
<u>South Dakota</u> (Western)	Apr.-May	Feeder Fed	Sept.-Oct. Dec.-Mar.	4.4
<u>Nevada</u>	Apr.-May	Spring & Feeder	Sept.-Oct.	1.1
<u>Other</u> (24 States)	Jan.-May	Spring	May-Aug.	6.7

1/ Lambs are shipped in from other areas (including Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming) from Sept.-Nov. and fattened on irrigated pasture. 2/ Receive bulk of feeder lambs May-Nov. with heaviest inshipments in Aug.-Oct.

LAMBING AND MARKETING SCHEDULE

18 Month Cycle



Supply and distribution of meat, by months, April 1967 to date

Meat and period	Commercially produced							
	Supply			Distribution				
	Produc- tion 1/	Begin- ning stocks	Imports	Exports and shipments	Ending stocks	Military	Civilian consumption	
							Total	Per person 2/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
Beef:								
April	1,596	300	83	7	290	58	1,624	8.3
May	1,761	290	75	7	288	68	1,763	9.1
June	1,749	288	101	7	276	67	1,788	9.2
2nd quarter	5,106	300	259	21	276	193	5,175	26.6
July	1,603	276	133	7	265			
August	1,739	265	136	7				
September								
3rd quarter								
Veal:								
April	57	13	1	3/	13	3	55	.3
May	59	13	2	3/	12	5	57	.3
June	60	12	2	1	12	6	55	.3
2nd quarter	176	13	5	1	12	14	167	.9
July	59	12	1	1	11			
August	68	11	1	1				
September								
3rd quarter								
Lamb and mutton:								
April	49	15	11	3/	16	3/	59	.3
May	49	16	9	1	17	3/	56	.3
June	49	17	10	3/	15	1	60	.3
2nd quarter	147	15	30	1	15	1	175	.9
July	48	15	7	3/	13			
August	54	13	9	3/				
September								
3rd quarter								
Pork:								
April	1,021	331	30	12	386	22	962	5.0
May	929	386	32	11	336	33	967	5.0
June	920	336	36	9	293	27	963	4.9
2nd quarter	2,870	331	98	32	293	82	2,892	14.9
July	838	293	32	9	239			
August	1,012	239	30	11				
September								
3rd quarter								
All meat:								
April	2,723	659	125	19	705	83	2,700	13.9
May	2,798	705	118	19	653	106	2,843	14.7
June	2,778	653	149	17	596	101	2,866	14.7
2nd quarter	8,299	659	392	55	596	290	8,409	43.3
July	2,548	596	173	17	528			
August	2,873	528	176	19				
September								
3rd quarter								

1/ Includes custom slaughtering for farmers beginning in 1966. Data are not comparable with other years. 2/ Derived from estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies. 3/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1966		1967	
		July	August	June	July
				August	
CATTLE AND CALVES:					
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per				
Chicago, Prime.....	100 pounds	26.47	26.98	26.78	27.21
Choice.....	do.	25.41	25.85	25.88	26.40
Good.....	do.	24.30	24.65	24.59	25.22
Standard.....	do.	22.68	22.88	22.86	23.65
Utility.....	do.	21.18	21.36	21.43	22.13
All grades.....	do.	25.26	25.73	25.83	26.37
Omaha, all grades.....	do.	24.83	25.43	25.13	26.02
Sioux City, all grades.....	do.	24.80	25.52	25.03	25.90
Cows, Chicago					
Commercial.....	do.	18.06	18.74	18.54	17.85
Utility.....	do.	17.86	18.37	18.89	18.37
Cutter.....	do.	17.36	17.90	18.02	17.55
Canner.....	do.	16.40	16.76	17.26	16.75
Vealers, Choice, S. St. Paul.....	do.	28.60	31.74	30.48	31.31
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/.....	do.	24.15	25.51	25.49	25.61
Price received by farmers					
Beef cattle.....	do.	21.90	22.40	22.90	23.20
Cows.....	do.	16.90	17.30	17.40	17.50
Steers and heifers.....	do.	23.60	24.10	24.50	24.90
Calves.....	do.	25.20	26.00	26.80	27.10
Beef steer-corn price ratio 2/.....		18.1	17.3	19.1	20.6
HOGS:					
Barrows and gilts, U.S. No. 1, 2 & 3, Chicago...					
200-220 pounds.....	do.	25.68	26.10	22.98	23.30
220-240 pounds.....	do.	25.57	26.15	22.81	23.17
240-270 pounds.....	do.	25.06	25.78	22.12	22.58
All weights.....	do.	25.11	25.99	22.46	22.90
Barrows and gilts, 8 markets 3/.....	do.	25.09	25.75	22.29	22.58
Sows, Chicago.....	do.	25.11	25.99	22.46	22.90
Price received by farmers.....	do.				
Hog-corn price ratio 4/.....					
Chicago, barrows and gilts.....		18.0	17.5	16.6	17.5
Price received by farmers, all hogs.....		23.20	24.50	21.00	21.40
SHEEP AND LAMBS:					
Sheep	Dollars per				
Slaughter ewes, Good, Chicago.....	100 pounds	8.02	7.50	6.94	7.00
Price received by farmers.....	do.	6.57	6.69	6.02	6.27
Lamb					
Slaughter, Choice, Chicago.....	do.	24.25	25.03	26.62	26.16
Feeder, Choice, S. St. Paul.....	do.	21.58	21.81	20.10	22.25
Price received by farmers.....	do.	22.10	22.80	24.60	23.40
ALL MEAT ANIMALS:					
Index number price received by farmers					
(1910-14-100).....		353	366	353	358
MEAT:					
Wholesale, Chicago, Less than carlot	Dollars per				
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds...	100 pounds	41.77	42.60	43.92	45.17
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds.....	do.	48.95	50.04	58.70	57.57
Fresh pork loins, 8-12 pounds.....	do.	57.61	57.06	54.20	57.80
Retail, United States average	Cents				
Beef, Choice grade.....	per pound	84.1	84.3	83.9	84.1
Pork, retail cuts and sausage.....	do.	72.9	73.4	69.1	69.2
Lamb, Choice grade.....	do.	87.3	86.6	88.9	89.5
Index number all meats (ELS)					
Wholesale (1957-59=100).....		108.5	110.5	109.5	111.2
Retail (1957-59=100).....		116.6	116.9	114.7	115.1
Beef and veal.....		112.2	112.3	112.7	113.3
Pork.....		125.0	125.9	118.9	119.2

1/ Average all weights and grades

2/ Bushels of No. 3 Yellow Corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of slaughter steers sold out of first hands, Chicago, all grades.

3/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.

4/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1966		1967		
		July	August	June	July	August
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1957-59=100)		109	129	118	106	133
Stocker and feeder shipments to						
8 Corn Belt States	1,000					
Cattle and calves	head	443	576	326	397	612
Sheep and lambs	do.	104	230	96	76	113
Slaughter under Federal inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	do.	2,236	2,469	2,423	2,238	2,461
Steers	do.	1,154	1,247	1,342	1,226	1,285
Heifers	do.	574	657	601	546	647
Cows	do.	472	523	444	430	492
Bulls and stags	do.	36	42	36	36	37
Calves	do.	313	361	285	271	332
Sheep and lambs	do.	929	1,024	904	902	1,001
Hogs	do.	4,228	5,088	5,178	4,743	5,808
Percentage sows	Percent	13	12	10	10	9
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	1,012	1,013	1,037	1,024	1,013
Calves	do.	218	219	206	203	202
Sheep and lambs	do.	99	99	97	97	98
Hogs	do.	247	238	249	246	241
Average production						
Beef, per head	do.	587	587	613	605	594
Veal, per head	do.	121	122	115	114	112
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	49	49	48	48	48
Pork, per head	do.	153	149	155	152	151
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	62	62	62	62	63
Lard, per head	do.	29	26	27	27	26
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	11	11	11	11	11
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	1,309	1,445	1,481	1,351	1,458
Veal	do.	38	44	33	31	37
Lamb and mutton	do.	45	49	43	43	48
Pork	do.	646	757	799	724	878
Lard	do.	116	134	141	129	149
Commercial slaughter <u>1/</u>						
Number slaughtered	1,000					
Cattle	head	2,725	3,037	2,934	2,718	3,000
Calves	do.	489	565	439	428	508
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,027	1,136	1,020	1,010	1,123
Hogs	do.	4,944	5,943	6,013	5,534	6,756
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	1,559	1,736	1,749	1,603	1,739
Veal	do.	68	79	60	59	68
Lamb and mutton	do.	50	55	49	48	54
Pork	do.	747	879	920	838	1,012
Lard	do.	131	150	157	144	167
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	do.	212	220	288	276	265
Veal	do.	7	7	12	12	11
Lamb and mutton	do.	22	26	17	15	13
Pork	do.	214	179	336	293	239
Total meat and meat products <u>2/</u>	do.	518	495	725	664	601

1/ Federally inspected, and other commercial.2/ Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the four meats listed.

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OCTOBER 1967

National Agricultural Outlook
Conference Set for Nov. 13-16

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold its 45th annual National Agricultural Outlook Conference November 13-16 in Washington, D.C. The first day and a half of the program will focus on the situation and outlook for the general economy, agriculture, and foreign trade. The remaining 2½ days will feature commodity and family living outlook sessions.

The livestock and meat outlook for 1968 will be discussed in the afternoon on November 14.